

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. A peptide of the formula

Leu-Glu-Ser-Tyr-Thr

or

Ile-Lys-Glu-Tyr-Phe-Thr-Ser

or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 2. A pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active ingredient at least one peptide of the formula

Leu-Glu-Ser-Tyr-Thr

or

Ile-Lys-Glu-Tyr-Phe-Thr-Ser

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for treating the symptoms caused by neuronal cell loss.

Claim 3. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 2 further comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 4. A method for treating the symptoms caused by a loss of neurons comprising administering to a person suffering from a disease causing neuronal cell loss a therapeutically effective amount of a peptide of formula

Leu-Glu-Ser-Tyr-Thr

or Ile-Lys-Glu-Tyr-Phe-Thr-Ser

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the formula is
Leu-Glu-Ser-Tyr-Thr.

Claim 6. There method of claim 4 wherein the formula is
Ile-Lys-Glu-Tyr-Phe-Thr-Ser.

Claim 7. The method of claim 4, wherein the peptide is administered by
oral, intranasal, buccal, parenteral, topical or rectal administration.